

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant – CPD from September 2025

Celebrating Excellence in Emotional Literacy Support

Telford & Wrekin EPS is proud to announce that we have been awarded the **ELSA Quality Mark 2025**. This recognition reflects our commitment to the highest standards in delivering initial training, ongoing supervision, professional development, and clinical support for Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs).

Last November, our training session on supporting the emotional literacy needs of neurodivergent children and young people was showcased at a national ELSA conference. Trainers from across the country have been sharing how they are now utilising our materials to enhance ELSA professional development relating to neuro-affirming and inclusive practices.

We are excited to confirm that ELSA initial training will be offered again this September 2025. While specific dates are yet to be confirmed, we invite expressions of interest to be sent by schools to our CPD team. We will notify schools once booking is open.

Importance of Line Manager Support

It is vital that each ELSA's line manager understands the nature and limitations of the role. Line managers should maintain an overview of the children the ELSA is supporting to ensure that these cases are appropriate for ELSA intervention. They can assist in identifying suitable referrals and managing caseloads, such as reviewing targets, determining when an intervention can end, and managing waiting lists where necessary.

To support this, we are hosting an **info-give coffee and cake event** for SENCOs and line managers at Telford Mercure (hybrid via Teams/in person) on **Tuesday, 20th May from 4pm to 4.45/5pm**. This event will provide detailed information about ELSA, including commitments and costs, enabling schools to make informed decisions before committing to ELSA. Reserve your place via **ELSA@telford.gov.uk**.

Top Tips and FAQs for ELSAs

From our half-termly supervision network meetings with ELSAs, we have gathered some valuable tips and FAQs:

- **Provide an appropriate space** in school for ELSAs to work with children and young people.
- **Ensure sufficient time** for ELSAs to plan and prepare for interventions.
- **Release ELSAs** to attend our half-termly supervision network meetings with the EP team, which is a requirement for all ELSAs to continue practicing in schools/settings.
- **Allocate a small budget** for ELSAs to purchase resources or materials that will aid in delivering interventions.

- **Line managers should understand** the nature and limitations of the ELSA role and maintain an overview of cases to ensure appropriateness for intervention. They can help identify referrals and manage caseloads effectively.
- **Minimise disruptions** to ensure ELSAs can work consistently with children, avoiding cancellations due to classroom cover.
- **Educate the wider school community** about the type of work ELSAs carry out and the scope of their role.